



Delaware ENVIROTHON™  
c/o Delaware Association of Conservation Districts  
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Website: [www.delawareenvirothon.org](http://www.delawareenvirothon.org)

September 9, 2009

Dear Educator:

The Delaware Envirothon is a hands-on, team-based environmental learning experience for high school students. It has been correlated to state educational standards and the materials can be adapted to your classroom or used as an after-school program for your team members. We are looking for additional adults and students from across the state interested in environmental education and stewardship and becoming involved with the Delaware Envirothon.

Throughout the year students learn about the resource topics of Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils/Land Use, Wildlife, and a 5<sup>th</sup> topic that changes each year. The topic for 2010 is "Protection of Groundwater through Urban, Agricultural and Environmental Planning." During the spring competition students are then tested on their knowledge of the natural resource topics. Additionally students must prepare an oral presentation to provide an answer for the given scenario based on the resource topics.

**The 2010 Delaware Envirothon will be held in Sussex County on April 29, 2010.** Preparations for the competition are well underway. We begin our 15<sup>th</sup> season of "Challenging Environmental Education" with a changed training format. **We will kick off the year with our first of two training sessions on Saturday, October 17, 2009.** The training will be held at the Blackbird State Forest just north of Smyrna, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Topics to be covered include Aquatic Ecology, Forestry and Soils/Land Use.

**The second and final training session will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 14, 2009,** at the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Office (Paradee Building) located in Dover. Topics to be covered include Wildlife, Public Speaking, and the 5<sup>th</sup> category.

Both students and advisors are encouraged to attend these informative training workshops held by natural resource professionals. Additionally, the Delaware Envirothon website ([www.delawareenvirothon.org](http://www.delawareenvirothon.org)) has training materials available for those unable to attend training sessions. You can read about the workshops and register through the Delaware Teacher Center catalogue or contact Kerin Hume at 302-741-2600. You can earn professional credits for attending the training sessions.

Teams are comprised of five high school aged students chaperoned by an adult advisor. You are encouraged to attend both of the training sessions with your team members, but we realize that busy schedules can make that impossible. We encourage you to find an adult volunteer that is willing to accompany your team to the trainings when you are unable to do so.

Please think about the following important facts as you consider participating in the Delaware Envirothon:

- The Delaware Envirothon and Canon Envirothon provide opportunities for students on winning teams to earn scholarships to the college of their choice. (\$500 per student in Delaware and up to \$5,000 per student from Canon)
- Wesley College offers a renewable \$3,000 per year academic scholarship to attend Wesley.
- The program is correlated to State of Delaware content standards.
- Students are exposed to a wide range of environmental and conservation career choices in the areas of aquatic ecology, forestry, soils/land use, wildlife and other environmental topics. Many students do go on to college and major in environmental, natural resource and agricultural careers.
- The winning team has the opportunity to travel to other areas of the United States and Canada to compete against the best teams from the U.S. and Canada. Delaware's state champion Envirothon team placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the Canon Envirothon in North Carolina this past summer, and won the competition in Arizona during the summer of 2008. Over the last five years the Delaware team has placed in the top ten winning teams.

We look forward to working with you during the school year as you prepare your team(s) for the 2010 competition. If you would like to schedule a presentation about the Envirothon program for your group or if you have any questions about the Delaware Envirothon, please give me a call at 302-739-9135 or email me at [Michelle.Jacobs@state.de.us](mailto:Michelle.Jacobs@state.de.us).

Sincerely,

Michelle Jacobs, Chair  
Delaware Envirothon

